



# Friends of Turnbull

Volume 4, Issue 2

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R. Quarterly Report

Summer 2002, 2nd Quarter

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

We've had some exciting events this spring. I hope you were able to attend one of them. I look forward to seeing more of you at the Annual Meeting this year. We have moved it from a Monday to Tuesday, August 13<sup>th</sup>. We plan on having actual entertainment this year, as well as the potluck and barbecue. See the flyer inside this issue, write it on your calendar, and plan to attend. Call ahead if you can so we can plan amounts for burgers, but if you decide at the last minute, that's ok, too.

### Friends Conference:

I attended the First Annual National Refuge Friends Conference in Washington, D.C., from February 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>. I stayed a few extra days for both sightseeing and to get more of a chance to see and visit our legislators. The Conference was well-attended by representatives from Friends Groups throughout the country, and I had the distinct pleasure of meeting the representatives from our Inland Northwest friends groups—Teri Pieper, Central Basin Audubon Society; Tricia Woods, Friends of the Little Pend Oreille NWR; Naomi Sherer and Paula Clark, both from Friends of Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuges. I also met Don Voros and Carolyn Bohan from the Regional Office of the Fish and Wildlife Service in Portland. We talked about doing some sort of Regional Mini-Conference soon as a way of sharing ideas. I also renewed my acquaintance with Molly Krival from the Ding Darling Wildlife Society who was the mentor who helped us with our Friends group several years ago, and once again I asked her advice. The networking and ideas from other Friends groups was a valuable part of this conference.

There were 270 attendees from 102 refuges in 43 states. The main thrust of this Conference was to promote Refuge funding needs to our legislators. The National Wildlife Refuge Association and the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) trained us in several sessions for meeting our legislators and how to present our individual Refuge's needs and the Refuge system needs in

general. We requested a \$100-million increase in the Refuge System budget for fiscal year 2003, the start of a 4-year plan to reach an annual Refuge System budget of \$700 million. It sounds like a lot, but when compared to the budgets of other agencies, such as National Parks and Forest Service, it doesn't look like nearly enough. Especially when we know how woefully underfunded the Refuge staffs are. There are Refuges that currently have no staff and no budget, and almost none of them have adequate funding for Operations and Maintenance. I believe our efforts resulted in gaining higher increases in the budget, though not the \$100-million we were requesting. It appears there is money available in the form of grants to help the Refuge System in preparing for the Centennial celebration.

Those of us from Eastern Washington went as a group to visit our Senators. We met with the staffs of Senator Maria Cantwell and Senator Patty Murray, and they were very receptive to our presentations. As I stayed through Thursday, I attended Senator Murray's Wednesday morning Constituent Coffee also, so I could meet her in person (see page 6). I also met with the staff of Congressman George Nethercutt on Thursday, rather than on Monday when none of the legislators were present. He had planned to meet with me personally, but was in a committee meeting that went longer than planned, so I met with his staff person instead.



### In this issue...

<b>President's Corner .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Special Thanks .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Smick Meadows Wetland Project .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>FOT General Meeting &amp; Celebration .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Turnbull Wildlife Observations .....</b>	<b>7</b>

There were many exciting speakers at the Conference. The keynote speaker was Representative Curt Weldon of Pennsylvania. He told of his use of a refuge to teach Environmental Education to inner city children when he taught school, I believe in Philadelphia, and how this experience made him supportive of keeping these wild places funded and protected. An evening reception and awards ceremony was another highlight. The Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Melissa Owen from Buenos Aires Refuge in Arizona, and she gave a very moving acceptance speech.

As you know, next year marks the Centennial of the Refuge System and there were workshops to help us with ideas for celebrating this event locally. Another Friends Conference is schedule for early next year to help kick off the celebrations. Several vendors were there with samples of their merchandise and I was pleased to meet Kevin from MediaSource who I dealt with in ordering Centennial mugs for our store.

**Activities:**

Our activities this spring have been well attended. On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Mike Folsom, Professor of Geography at EWU, gave a very interesting lecture on the Dynamics of Wetlands in and around the Turnbull area. On April 10<sup>th</sup>, Bob Carr, professor of botany and biology, gave us a beautiful slide show on the Vascular Plants of Turnbull at SCC. Andy Buddington has arranged these visiting lecturers for us and these were the latest in the series of lectures themed around Turnbull. These have all been great and educational, as well, and I want to thank Andy for arranging these for our group. Look for more of these and don't miss them. They are really wonderful opportunities to learn about our region.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, we had two activities scheduled. The first one was the Spring Birding Field Trip led by myself and my husband. We had 18 participants and spent several hours walking around the Pine Lakes looking at the ducks and other waterfowl and walking up into riparian areas where we saw Yellow and Wilson's Warblers, House Wrens, Bullock's Oriole, and others. The lone Trumpeter Swan took off and gave us a flyby display before we started, and that was a treat. Along with Black Terns, we also saw Forster's Terns, which was a surprise. With the wildflowers in bloom and the cloudy skies making it easy to see the birds' colors, it was a beautiful day, even though a bit damp and cold at times.

The other activity was our second annual Music Fest. This year we held it at The Shop, a coffeehouse on South Perry. I'm sure we reached people in that neighborhood, as many took brochures and asked questions about the

Refuge. Nancy Curry from the Refuge staff was available for questions when needed. The entertainers were LaRae Wiley, Steve Simmons, and Brad Keeler and we are grateful for the time and talent they donated to helping us raise money at this benefit. This year we were able to do it as a benefit so we could sell a few items and ask for donations.

**Friends Store:**

The store is doing quite well this year. We added International Migratory Bird Day T-shirts to our inventory and they have been selling well. Any of you who would like to work as volunteers at the store should call MaryJane Booth at 235-4466. Don't forget, we carry most of the popular North American bird guides, including the Sibley Guide to North American Birds. So if there is one of the guides you don't yet have, check us out. We also sell Dover Dollar books for children and carry sticker books and quite a few children's level books, including the North American Book of Owls. Our bookstore staffers also serve as an informal information center as many people come in to ask questions about trails and to pick up brochures, and they all take time to visit the Environmental Education Classroom to look at the stuffed mounts.

**Board Meetings:**

For those of you who may be interested, we hold monthly board meetings the first Monday of the month at Spokane Community College in the Science Building, Room 111b. We currently meet at 5:00 p.m. On some occasions, we move the meeting date, such as Mondays that fall on holidays, etc. These board meetings are open to the membership and we encourage you to attend if interested, but call a board member ahead of time in case we have moved the meeting date.

**Friends of Turnbull N.W.R.  
Board of Directors**

<b>President:</b>	Marian Frobe	<b>Directors:</b>	Andy Buddington
<b>Vice President:</b>	Chuck Kerkering		Marie Fowler
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Robert Liepold		Vonice Parker
<b>Secretary:</b>	Lance Von Marbod		John Phillips
			Joanne Powell
			Ed Reynolds

# Special Thanks

We wish to thank **Stacy Timm** for his time and effort in building beautiful glass doors for our T-shirt shelves at the Friends of Turnbull Store at the Refuge. If you haven't seen these, remember the store is open weekends from 11-4, so if you are out there during that time, go in the store and check out his wonderful handiwork.

Special thanks to **Dr. Mike Folsom**, Professor of Geography at EWU for his wonderful presentation, "Wetlands of the Turnbull Area" given on February 20<sup>th</sup>. We would also like to thank Dr. Bob Carr, Professor of Botany (EWU) for his talk "Vascular Plants of Turnbull," given on April 10<sup>th</sup> at Spokane Community College. Finally, FOT would like to thank Spokane Community College and the Science Department at SCC for hosting this years evening slide lectures.

Special thanks are also due to the musicians who gave their time and talent to the music benefit to raise money for our group—**LaRae Wiley, Steve Simmons,** and **Brad Keeler**. Their music is wonderful.

Our thanks to those of you who donated more than their membership fee. We truly appreciate your generous donations: **Carrie Bickle**  
**Andy Buddington**

Our thanks to **Xn Technologies** for their generous contribution to our Environmental Education Endowment Fund this spring.

We also wish to thank the **Copy Junction** for allowing us a lower rate for copying brochures for the Music Fest.

We greatly appreciate all of you who donate toward our programs. If we have overlooked anyone who should be acknowledged, please accept our apologies. Also, if you have renewed or donated recently, we hope to list you in the next newsletter.

*Marian Frobe*

For Newsletter information or news contributions, please contact Joanne Powell at 456-7111 x 204 or email [powell@snapwa.org](mailto:powell@snapwa.org)

## NEEDED: BOARD MEMBERS

We are losing two board members this summer and this is a perfect opportunity for you to join the board of the Friends of Turnbull as we go into this exciting Centennial year of the National Wildlife Refuge System. We are looking in particular for a secretary, whose duties would be mainly taking meeting notes and mailing or e-mailing minutes and agenda to each board member once a month.

If you are interested in helping FOT by becoming a board member, please call Marian Frobe at 328-0621 for more information. Or contact any of the current board members. We need your help!

## *Friends of Turnbull Online*

Please visit our new website at:

<http://www.tincan.org/ftnwr/>

Check the site periodically for activities updates and announcements. If you have any questions or comments regarding the website, please contact Andy Buddington ([abuddington@scc.spokane.cc.wa.us](mailto:abuddington@scc.spokane.cc.wa.us)).



You Are Cordially Invited To The Dedication Of  
**DUCKS UNLIMITED/BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
**SMICK MEADOWS**  
**WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT**

**SATURDAY JUNE 29 10AM -NOON**

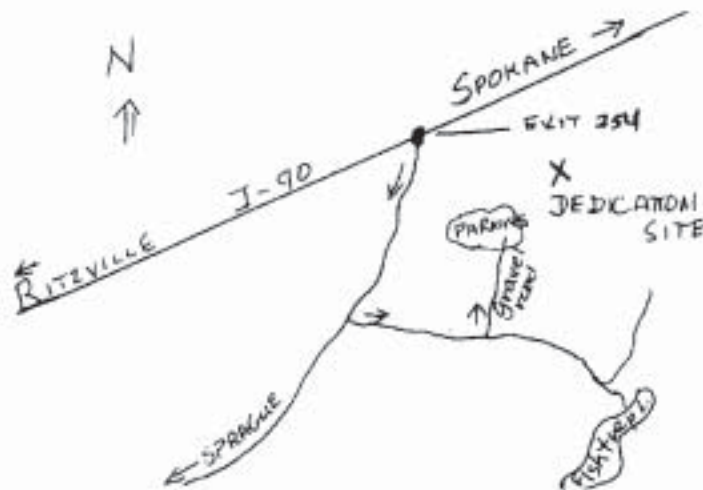
Lunch and beverages provided following the dedication

SMICK MEADOWS IS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF A COOPERATIVE WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT THAT PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS TO WATERFOWL, WATERBIRDS AND OTHER WETLAND DEPENDENT WILDLIFE. THE DEDICATION WILL HONOR SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS WHO MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO DUCKS UNLIMITED SO THAT THIS PROJECT COULD BE BUILT.

Master of Ceremonies: Alan Liere

Please bring a lawn chair and, in case of rain, an umbrella

For information please call 509-466-8622



# Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge



## General Membership Meeting at the Headquarters area of the Refuge

**Tuesday, August 13, 2002  
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.**

**6:00 7:00 p.m.**

### **Pot Luck Dinner**

**Bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share**

**Bring a favorite non-alcoholic beverage for yourself**

**Main dish will be provided by FTNWR**

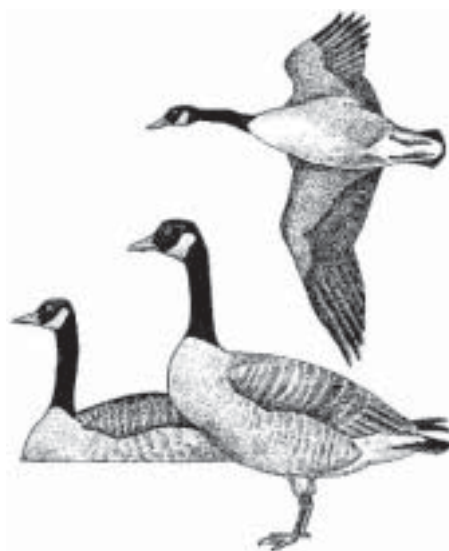
**7:00 8:00 p.m.**

### **Information Meeting**

**Chuck Kerkering will be presenting  
a slide show of his spectacular pictures of  
“The Flora and Fauna of Turnbull”**

**Please R.S.V.P. to Friends of Turnbull President, Marian Frobe, 328-0621**

The business conducted at this meeting will set the tone for Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge for the coming year. Here is your chance to provide your input on those important issues you would like to see emphasized or, if you're satisfied with the business aspect of the organization, now is the time to get together with fellow members and enjoy good food in a great setting!



---

*First Annual National Refuge Friends Conference in Washington, D.C.*



*Marian Frobe, Senator Patty Murray and Russell Frobe*



# Spring Wildlife Observations at Turnbull NWR

by Mike Rule

Although winter was hard to shake this year, and delayed the blooming of the buttercups by a couple



of weeks, it didn't seem to have any appreciable effect on spring migration. Western

bluebirds arrived the first week of March and yellow-headed blackbirds returned to take over the marshes from their red-winged cousins on the second week of April. Audubon warblers, our earliest arriving warbler, showed up on March 22 which is right on its average spring arrival date.

The first Canada goose brood was observed the last week of April which is a little later than average. Over the next several weeks several broods were sighted indicating a respectable hatch this year.



Coalition for the Prevention of the Destruction of Canada Geese

During the spring shorebird migration in late - May, western sandpipers, long-billed dowitchers, greater yellowlegs, and Wilson's and red-necked phalaropes were observed on Stubblefield Lake and other refuge wetlands. A marbled godwit was observed on Reeves Lake May 8<sup>th</sup> by Russell and Marian Frobe while conducting a marshbird survey. A black-necked stilt was observed feeding in the shallows of Long Lake near the Columbia Plateau Trail on May 21<sup>st</sup>.

The refuge initiated our annual marshbird surveys which utilizes broadcast bird calls to elicit responses on May 8<sup>th</sup>. It appears to be a good year for marshbirds. Many responses from sora and Virginia rails have been recorded as well as American Bitterns. Several bitterns have been observed by birders and staff along the edges of wetlands that border the auto-tour route.

Our annual point count surveys were initiated on May 19<sup>th</sup>. During the first two-week count period some spring migrants were still around including several western tanagers, Wilson's and Townsend's warblers, evening grosbeaks, a hermit thrush, and ruby-crowned kinglet. Wild turkeys are officially everywhere on the refuge now. Male gobblers were heard at a high percentage of point count stations and birds were observed on several occasions at numerous locations throughout the refuge. Our first turkey nest was found on the refuge in May of this year too.

For those that enjoy the big animals, moose too, seem to be a permanent addition to the refuge fauna after 7 consecutive years of sightings. A young bull was observed frequently this spring beginning in late March and recently a cow has been observed near the refuge entrance road and points south. The larger elk groups using the refuge have been breaking up with observations of single cows increasing indicating that calving is starting. Tracks of a white-tailed deer fawn were observed on June 5 at the mist-netting station during our first day of banding with a doe snorting her concern a short distance away.

There are still lots of wildflowers blooming or yet to bloom and birding is exceptional with the breeding season in full swing, so come on out and enjoy.



## Membership Application

**YES!** I want to support the Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge and its programs with my membership.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, and Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership: (Circle one)

Individual \$15

Family \$25

Business/Group \$35

Patron \$100

Benefactor \$500

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Endowment Fund Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to volunteer \_\_\_\_\_

My check is enclosed payable to:

Friends of Turnbull N.W.R.

P.O. Box 294

Cheney WA 99004

Have You Renewed For 2002?



**Friends of Turnbull**  
**Friends of Turnbull NWR**  
**P.O. Box 294**  
**Cheney, WA 99004**

*“The Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, a nonprofit organization, supports the mandate of the refuge to protect and enhance wildlife and their habitats through education, research, habitat preservation and restoration.”*